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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 29, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You have blessed us with all good gifts, and this past week, with thankful hearts we gathered with family and loved ones throughout this great land to celebrate our blessings together.

Bless the Members of the people's House, who have been entrusted with the privilege to serve our Nation and all Americans in their need. Grant them to work together in respect and affection and to be faithful in the responsibilities they have been given.

As the end of the first session approaches and much is left to be done, bestow upon them the gifts of wisdom and discernment that in their words and actions they will do justice, love with mercy, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMING TO AMERICA

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, those who say that the border is secure and the violence is contained in Mexico are living in a blissful state of ignorance. Case in point: Last week, according to the Houston Chronicle, three SUVs carrying Mexican Zeta cartel soldiers

tried to hijack a tractor truck rig loaded with drugs on a road in north Houston. They unleashed blazing gunfire. A shootout occurred with police who were tracking the truck from Mexico. The truck driver was killed and a peace officer was wounded. Three Mexican nationals and another of unknown citizenship were charged with capital murder.

The local head of the DEA, Javier Pena, said, "we are not going to tolerate these thugs using their weapons like the Wild Wild West." Sadly, this brazen case of violence is a familiar scene on the streets of Mexico. And now it has become a reality in the United States.

Until Washington realizes what happens in Mexico doesn't stay in Mexico, more cartel shoot-outs on American streets are coming our way.

And that's just the way it is.

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT DEFENSE ACT

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. While Congress is in a deadlock over tax and spending cuts, we learn the Feds secretly gave Wall Street banks over \$7.7 trillion. Where did the Fed get that 7.7 trillion? They created most of it from nothing. While our government slid into massive debt, the Fed picked winners and losers and secretly helped big banks tally record profits.

Remember the great debate we had here over \$700 billion in TARP funds? There was no debate over the \$7.7 trillion the Fed gave the banks. Did Congress have a clue? There's another game going on way over our heads, and our constituents are struggling while the banks, with the help of the Fed, have captured control of our government. Now the rating services are threatening us that if we don't come up

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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